# MotherFirst Maternal Mental Health Strategy in Saskatchewan

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# World Health Organization 2020

- depression will be 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest cause of premature death and disability worldwide

### Already

- #1 cause of disease burden in women
- childbearing women most at risk, up to 50% of immigrant women #1 obstetrical complication

### **Maternal deaths**

- 10% suicide
  - #1 cause of death

### Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) – Pregnancy and 1 year postpartum

- -Depression
- -Anxiety
  - Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
  - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- -Bipolar
- -Psychosis
- -Pinks and Baby Blues
  - not disorders, but may indicate vulnerability

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### Why do we care?

*"What a mother feels and hears... that child feels and hears"* 

**Elder Marie Favel** 



### DON'T LISTEN TO "OLD WIVES' TALES"

No shock can mark an unborn baby. No horrible sight can deform him. BUT

WORRY, FEAR and ANGER may affect his mothers blood, which supplies his food. THEREFORE

she should be CALM, HAPPY and SWEET-TEMPERED.



- Medical and obstetrical complications in the mother
- Fetal and newborn health
- Breastfeeding
- Ongoing developmental, behavioural, cognitive effects on the child
- Longterm health issues for mother and child

# Our studies confirmed the prevalence and longitudinal importance of antenatal depression

# ふMotherFirstふ Maternal Mental Health Strategy:

### 2 initiatives to improve maternal mental health

- 1. Increase awareness in Saskatchewan
- 2. Building capacity in Saskatchewan



saskatchewan preventioninstitute our goal is healthy children





### **Education - Increase awareness**

- Materials available
  - preventioninstitute.sk.ca
  - skmaternalmentalhealth.ca
  - curriculum of health professionals, schools
- TV Loops
- Healthline 811
- Saskatchewan Drug Information Services
  - 1-800-665-DRUG (3784)
- Media



Maternal Mental Heur Maternal Mental Heur Saskatchewan experience depression during or after pregnancy.

# Are you enjoying pregnancy or being the mother of a new baby?

If you answered "No" to this question, you might be depressed.

Having several of the following symptoms for more than two weeks could mean you are depressed ...

- Less interest in things you usually like
- Crying for no reason
- □ Irritable, angry, or more sensitive
- More tired or hyper
- Not sleeping or sleeping too much
- Problems concentrating
- Not able to cope
- Anxious or panicked
- Thoughts of harming yourself, your baby, or others

If you think you might be depressed, talk to someone, ask for help.

#### **Contact:**

- A health care professional your doctor, nurse, or midwife
- Healthline: 1-877-800-0002

### Depression is treatable and there is help!

www.skmaternalmentalhealth.ca



Providen

Holornol Herdal 1 in 5 women in Saskatchewan experience depression during pregnancy (antenatal depression) or after pregnancy (postpartum depression).

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#### **Taking Care of You**

- Be kind to yourself
- Ask for and accept help with baby and housework
- Keep active ... go for a walk
- Get enough sleep at least 6 hours in a 24 hour period
- Eat healthy and regularly
- Avoid alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
- Take medications as prescribed
- Try yoga or other activities to help you relax
  - Look for a support group or other supports in your community
  - Talk to a health care provider

#### Partners, family, and friends, you can also help ...

- Listen to her and support her feelings
- Ask her how you can help
- Encourage her to seek professional help
- Develop a relationship with your baby
- Educate yourself about maternal mental health

Partners can also experience depression ... it is important that they also get the support they need.

### For more information, visit the following websites:

Saskatchewan Maternal Mental Health www.skmaternalmentalhealth.ca

Best Start Resource Centre www.lifewithnewbaby.ca

#### For information about medication use in pregnancy and while breastfeeding:

Saskatchewan Drug Information Services 1-800-655-DRUG (3784)

#### 🏊 MotherFirst 😽





### www.skprevention.ca

www.skmaternalmentalhealth.ca

# Guidelines

- RNAO Best Practice Guidelines-Perinatal Depression
- Family Centred Maternity and Newborn Care Guidelines-Health Canada

 SOGC and CPA–Joint statement

**Universal Screening** - *normalize* – "we care about all aspect s of your health – physical and mental"

### **Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale** >=12 probable major depression

9-11 probable minor depression

- **2 times in Pregnancy** 
  - 1st visit and @ 28-34 weeks gestation
- **3 times in Postpartum** 
  - prior to discharge from early visit program (2-3 weeks)

- within public health and immunization visits 2 months (4 if not @ 2) and 6 months

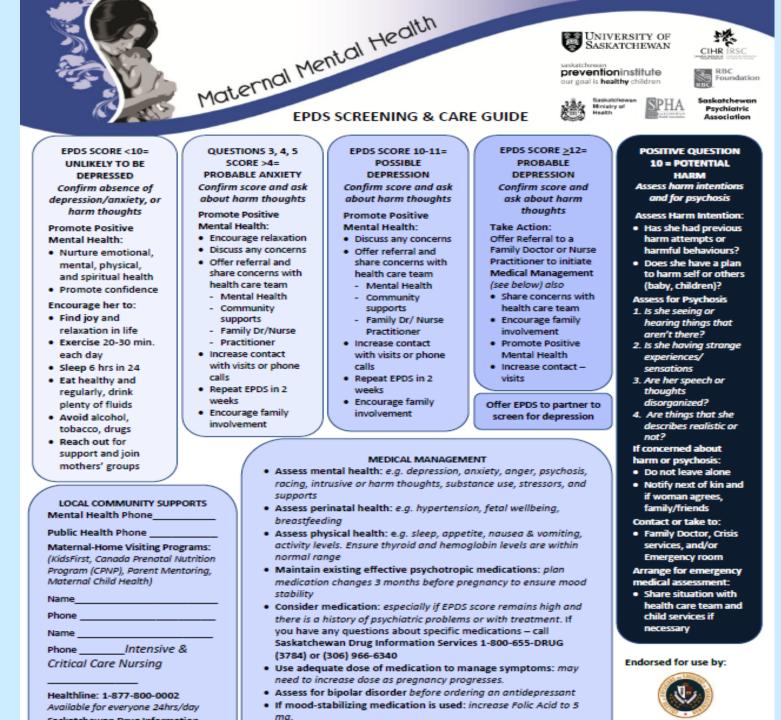


# change.org petition Presented to MoH 2016

- Prenatal 'perinatal' form
  - EPDS
    - WAST, TACE
  - Eform

### Child Health Checks - public health nurses

 2 and 6 months and whenever else they feel warranted



#### EPDS SCREENING & CARE GUIDE

#### OFFER all pregnant women the Maternal Mental Health print materials.

#### Download or order screening and print materials from the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute at www.preventioninstitute.sk.ca

Maternal Depression - which includes Antenatal Depression (AD) and Postpartum Depression (PPD) and Maternal Anxiety affect 1 in 5 women. There are potential effects to the whole family, as 10% of partners experience depression and anxiety, more if the mother is depressed. Parental mental health issues can affect child health and development. Treating anxiety may help to prevent depression. Signs of anxiety and depression include: - Excessive worry and guilt - Inability to relax

- Irritability or anger
- Sleep problems
- Lack of bonding with baby
- Indecisiveness

- Sadness - Panic attacks - Crying - Fearfulness - Thoughts of harm to self or others
- Hypervigilence - Repetitive thoughts
  - Obsessive intrusive thoughts

UNIVERSAL SCREENING is a quick and easy way to determine women at risk as well as helping to reduce stigma of mental health problems. The Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale - EPDS - can be done in-person or over the phone. The EPDS is also valid for use with partners. MINIMAL TIMES TO SCREEN Pregnancy

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#### Postpartum

No, not at all

- 1" prenatal visit and at 28-34 weeks gestation - 2-3 weeks postpartum and at 2 month (or 4 if not done at 2) and 6 month well child visits Or as deemed necessary by the practitioner

#### EPDS Screen

	1.	I have been able to laugh and see the funny sid	le	6.	Things have been getting on top of me:	
		of things:			Yes, most of the time I haven't been able to cope at all	3
		As much as I always could	0		Yes, sometimes I haven't been coping as well as usual	2
		Not quite so much now	1		No, most of the time I have coped quite well	1
		Definitely not so much now	2		No, I have been coping as well as ever	0
		Not at all	3			
				7.	I have been so unhappy that I have had difficulty sleep	ping:
	2.	I have looked forward with enjoyment to things:			Yes, most of the time	3
		As much as I ever did	0		Yes, sometimes	2
		Rather less than I used to	1		Not very often	1
		Definitely less than I used to	2		No, not at all	0
		Hardly at all	3			
	_			8.	I have felt sad or miserable:	
	З.	I have blamed myself unnecessarily when things went			Yes, most of the time	3
		wrong:			Yes, quite often	2
		Yes, most of the time	3		Not very often	1
		Yes, some of the time	2		No, not at all	0
Anxiety Subscale	4.	Not very often	1			
		No, never	0	9.	I have been so unhappy that I have been crying:	
					Yes, most of the time	3
		I have been anxious or worried for no good			Yes, guite often	2
		reason:			Only occasionally	1
ž		No, not at all	0		No, never	0
2		Hardly ever	1			
		Yes, sometimes	2	10	. The thought of harming myself has occurred to me:	
2		Yes, very often	3	10	Yes, guite often	
					Sometimes	2
	5.	I have felt scared or panicky for no very			Hardly ever	-
		good reason:			Never	
		Yes, quite a lot	3		NEVEL	
_	-	Yes, sometimes	2		TOTAL SCORE:	
		No. not much	1		IVIAL SCORE.	

0

	1
	0

#### TOTAL SCORE:

See Score Interpretation and Care OVER

3

2

1 0

3 2

## A screen is a... screen...

- Do not ignore intuition/gut feelings
- Take note of what you see and know
  - History of depression, especially ppd, excessive anxiety, not sleeping or eating, looks sad--'Smiling Mask', lack of support, stress levels
- Follow-up when there is a concern
  - To public health
- Refer if in doubt
  - Doctor or Mental Health Services
  - "I have screened your patient \_\_\_\_\_ and I believe that she may be depressed. I am referring her to you for further assessment and follow-up."

### **1. Prioritize**

- Pregnant and postpartum women in mental health services
  - Still not being done in all regions
    - Admission system doesn't include pregnancy
  - Dual disorders
  - Alcohol a depressant, treat both
  - Do prioritize pregnant women

### 2. Increase treatment options

- Shortage of counsellors, particularly in rural/remote areas
  - Robot Doc in Box, remote presence project
- Online Therapy CBT
  - <u>www.onlinetherapyuser.ca</u>
- Listening visits-short term relief
- Exercise
- Light therapy
- Sleep
- Peer and group support-very effective
- TLC
- MMH Toolkit(s)

### 3. Medications

- Sometimes necessary to stabilize mood so that can participate in other therapies
- Don't come off or taper, may need increase
- Combination of approaches

## Maternal Wellness Program

- Healthline 811
- PHN referral for maternal mental health and perinatal loss
  - Outbound calls
- Emotional support, coping strategies, community resources
  - Short term immediate counselling
  - Will call until permanent connections in place between appointments if needed
  - Transfer to RN if health issues with child
  - Achieved all regions on World Maternal Mental Health Day May 3, 2017!
  - Will extend as \$\$ permit
  - Only pp women

## Maternal Mental Health Toolkit

#### EPDS SCORE <10= UNLIKELY DEPRESSED

#### Confirm absence of depression/anxiety, or harm thoughts

#### **Promote Positive** Mental Health:

- Discuss any concerns she may have Nurture emotional,
- mental, physical, and spiritual health MMH infocard and discuss handouts: (Emotions, Sleep & Rest, Food & Mood,
- Family & Friends, Stress Busters, Self-Care, Exercise)
- Promote confidence

#### OUESTIONS 3, 4, 5 SCORE >4= PROBABLE ANXIETY

Maternal Mental Health

#### Confirm score. (EPDS question 10)

#### Take Action:

- Discuss any concerns she may have
- Share your concerns with your supervisor
- Increase contact with visits or phone calls
- MMH infocard and discuss handouts: (Anxiety & Worry, Emotions, Sleep & Rest, Food & Mood, Family & Friends, Stress Busters, Self-Care, Exercise, Treatment)
- Encourage relaxation (Stress Busters handout)
- Encourage family involvement (Family & Friends handout)
- Repeat EPDS in 2 weeks

#### EPDS SCORE 10-11= POSSIBLE DEPRESSION

#### Confirm score. (EPDS question 10)

#### Take Action:

- Share concerns with counsellor
- Increase contact with visits or phone calls
- Repeat EPDS in 2 weeks
- MMH infocard and discuss handouts: (Anxiety & Worry, Emotions, Depression, Sleep & Rest, Food & Mood, Family & Friends. Stress Busters, Self -Care, Exercise, Treatment)
- Encourage relaxation (Stress Busters handout)
- Encourage family involvement (Friends & Family handout)

#### EPDS SCORE >12= PROBABLE DEPRESSION Confirm score.

(EPDS question 10)

#### Assess risk to children:

**Community Care Guide** 

"In Need of

Protection" and "Duty to Report."

#### Take Action:

- Notify counsellor immediately
- Suggest she contact her family doctor or nurse practitioner
- MMH infocard and discuss handouts: (Depression, Sleep & Rest, Food & Mood, Family & Friends, Stress Busters, Self-Care, Exercise, Treatment)
- Encourage family involvement (Family & Friends handout)
- Increase contact more frequent visits

Offer EPDS to partner

& phone calls

- if woman agrees.
- Contact or take to family doctor, crisis services, and/or emergency room

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Mental Health: 306-446-6500

Battlefords Family Health Centre: 306-937-6840 Primary Health Centre: 306-446-6400 Battlefords Union Hospital: 306-446-6600 Social Services: 306-446-7535

Catholic Family Services: 306-445-6960

[Type text]

#### Emergency/RCMP 911. Healthline: 811 (24hrs/day)

Saskatchewan Drug Information Services: Information about medication use in pregnancy or lactation 1-800-665-DRUG (3784) or 1-306-966-6340 Other supports:

See: www.skmaternalmentalhealth.ca

#### POSITIVE QUESTION 10 = POTENTIAL HARM

Confirm Score. ASIST Call supervisor immediately, do not leave her alone

#### Assess Harm Intention:

- 1. Has she had previous harm attempts or harmful behaviours?
- 2. Does she have a plan to harm self or others (baby, children)?

#### Assess for Psychosis

- 1. Is she seeing or hearing things that aren't there?
- 2. Is she having strange experiences/ sensations
- 3. Are her speech or thoughts disorganized?
- 4. Are things that she describes realistic? Assess risk to children: "In Need of Protection"
- and "Duty to Report." Suspect psychosis or

#### intent to harm?

- Do not leave alone Refer to Counsellor
- Notify next of kin and
- family/friends

EPDS OVER



If you are depressed or anxious, here are some things that can help you feel better.

Experts agree it is better for a pregnant or breastfeeding mother and her baby to treat her anxiety and depression than to leave it untreated. This might involve support groups, counselling, medications, or a combination of these.

#### Talk to someone you trust

- Just talking to someone can help you feel better
- A friend, family, or a support worker is helpful if she or he listens to you and doesn't make you feel judged
  - If you feel worse talking to that person, find someone different to talk with
  - People on Facebook and other sites are not always your true friends; instead of being supportive it can
    increase your stress and add drama you don't need in your life

#### Support Groups

Anxiety & Worry

**Breastfeeding &** 

Family & Friends

Food & Mood

Loss & Grief

**Rest & Sleep** 

12. Stress Busters

11. Self Care

13. Treatment

**Boundaries** 

Depression

**Emotions** 

Exercise

Mood

1.

2.

3

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

- Support groups can help you feel less alone
  - Allow you to share your feelings with others who can relate to how you feel
  - Help you to understand what is happening to you
  - Some are available online, but it is important it be facilitated by a counsellor

#### Counselling

- A good counsellor can help you deal with the challenges of pregnancy and becoming a mother
  - The counsellor can help you to solve problems with your partner if you are feeling unsafe or unsupported at home

#### Light Therapy

- Bright light therapy with special light boxes can help improve mood
- Opening your curtains or going for a walk in the daylight can help to improve your mood
  Medications

#### Medications

- Take medications if your doctor or nurse prescribes them for you
- Do not stop taking a medication without talking to your doctor or nurse first
- It can be hard to get the same relief from symptoms if you come off the medications
- Be patient
  - It takes a few weeks for antidepressants to work properly, please don't stop taking them if you don't feel better right away
- Your doctor might prescribe a mood stabilizing medication
  - Some mood stabilizing medications can take a few months to reach full dose and for you to feel the full
    effect on your mood.
- You might need to try a different medication or more than one medication to get the best result
- Information about medications during pregnancy or breastfeeding is available through your health care
  provider

#### Self-care

- You can do things to improve your mood.
  - See SELF CARE, EXERCISE, FOOD and MOOD, and STRESS BUSTERS handouts

#### Emergency support

 Healthline is available by calling 811. It is a confidential, 24-hour health information and support telephone line, staffed by nurses and social workers

If you are hearing voices or seeing things that are not there or feel you might harm yourself or others, call someone, and go to an emergency department or 811











- Sustainability
- Maternal Mental Health Implementation
   Committee
  - Minister of Health and Ministry remain committed and involved
- Regional groups
  - Not as active as we would like, but some have achieved much
  - Prairie North!

### Australia

- Aboriginal birthing cultural security and caregiver competence
- Resilience in Aboriginal families with maternal depression

### Canada

Indigenous Birth



### Maternal Depression in Syrian refugees recently moved to Canada

- 12 smiling perinatal women, yet 58% screened + depression
- Love children (mean 3+1.5 aged 1-5)
- Lack of support of female relatives, worry about birth
- Only acknowledge very severe depression
- Stigma for diagnosis and treatment
- Translated Maternal Mental Health Toolkit into Arabic



# Indigenous Birth Network



Presided over by Elder Leona Tootoosis





- Saskatchewan 2014
- Inaugural: May 4, 2016
  - Theme #maternalMHmatters
- Now: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in May
  - Close to many Mother's Days and Mental Health Awareness Weeks
- Collaborated with Marce Society and Postpartum Support International
  - Skype & WebEx meetings
  - 27 countries
  - Twitter/twibbon/periscope

wmmhday.postpartum.net #maternalMHmatters

### www.skmaternalmentalhealth.ca

### **3** Cree dialects, Dene and Dakota



## WHO 2020

# Canadian Alliance for Maternal Mental Health—national strategy

### • Global Alliance for Maternal Mental Health

Joined -

Notifications

Working Group: Towards A National S

Q

···· More

UK Maternal Mental Health Alliance

## Maternal Mental Health : Towards A National Strategy

Angela

Home

### Canadian

Professionals across Canada

### Life with Baby

https://www.lifewithababy.com

### Postpartum Progress

http://www.postpartumprogress.com



Canadian Mental Health Association Saskatchewan Mental health for all



MotherFirst Maternal Mental Health Strategy of SK and the Canadian Mental Health Association (Saskatchewan Division) Inc. present the 2018

Our Mothers, Our Future Conference



The 2018 Conference will offer a 2-day certificate training course presented by Postpartum Support International (PSI), as well as Canadian specialists, on the subject.

- Get practical strategies, tools and critical health updates to help you **UNDERSTAND** the latest research and developments in this area
- **DEMYSTIFY** the numerous taboos surrounding perinatal mental health
- CREATE effective prevention programs
- **CONNECT** with leaders across the province who are working to make a difference in the life of new mothers and families.

#### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER, Margaret Trudeau

Margaret Trudeau is a Canadian icon, celebrated both for her role in the public eye and as a respected mental health issues advocate. Margaret tirelessly shares her personal stories to remind others of the importance of nurturing the body, mind and spirit.



Early Bird REGISTRATION (before April 30/18): Professionals \$275.00 | Non-professional (mothers, family members) \$150.00 REGISTRATION after April 30, 2018: Professionals \$325.00 | Non-Professional (mothers, family members) \$175.00

### MAY 25-26, 2018 SHERATON CAVALIER HOTEL, SASKATOON

REGISTER @ WWW.SK.CMHA.CA 306-525-5601

## What can you do?

What more can we do nationally?

## angela.bowen@usask.ca

# **Questions?**

